

Army received \$82 million for the Wolverine for FY 2000, it did not intend to spend it on the bridge. H.R. 4576 commands the Army to spend the \$82 million on the Wolverine, as well as an additional \$15 million. In short, Congress is forcing the Army to spend \$97 million on a bridge that it doesn't need.

4. Medical Research—The Administration requested \$16.5 million for medical research in the defense bill. The Appropriations Committee reported out \$252.2 million in H.R. 4576, including: \$6 million for laser vision correction research, \$3.7 million for nutrition research, \$10 million for ovarian cancer research, \$15 million for HIV research, \$3 million for chronic fatigue research, and \$7 million for alcoholism research.

Now, some of these programs may be valid, but they are non-defense items. We have a Labor/Health and Human Services Appropriations bill that is more suitable for these programs. Hiding these items within H.R. 4576 is unfair to our taxpayers.

In addition, H.R. 4576 skirted two important issues with profound budget and readiness implications:

Base Realignment and Closure Commission—H.R. 4576 does not include funding for two new BRAC rounds, despite the fact that the Pentagon has estimated it has an excess base capacity of 23%. CBO estimates that two new BRAC rounds would save the Defense Department \$4.7 billion by 2010, and that after completion in 2012, DOD could realize recurring savings of about \$4 billion per year. Congress' inaction means that the Pentagon must continue to waste billions of taxpayer dollars maintaining obsolete bases.

Aircraft—H.R. 4576 includes billions for research, development and procurement of three different fighter planes (the Navy's F-18 E/F, The Air Force F-22, and the Navy & Air Force Joint Strike Fighter) when there is not a strong consensus that all three fighters are necessary. Some defense experts say the military needs the F-18 & F-22. Some say it needs the JSF instead. Congress' answer is simply to fund all of the fighter planes in question. Now, Congress is forging ahead with funding the production of 10 F-22 Aircraft when there are indications that the program is not ready for production. In doing so, Congress takes away from aircraft (specifically bombers and unmanned aerial aircraft [UAVs]) that, while less glamorous, are a more pressing need for the military.

I agree that the Congress should fund a military that is second to none. And H.R. 4576 does include several important items I support, like funding for domestic terrorism response, more decent enlisted pay, and missile defense. But it is also weighed down with too many items that are unnecessary for, and in fact, counterproductive to, our national defense. Therefore, I reluctantly oppose the bill.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING STEPHEN CHEN OF THE
TAIWAN ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL
REPRESENTATIVE OFFICE [TECRO]

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 9, 2000

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, today I express our deepest appreciation to Representative Stephen Chen of the Taiwan Economic and Cultural Representative Office [TECRO] for his service as his country's senior diplomat here in Washington since 1997. Stephen has served the people of Taiwan with distinction for over 47 years as a member of Taiwan's diplomatic corps. He has served abroad in the Philippines, Brazil, Argentina, Bolivia and as Vice Foreign Minister and Deputy Secretary General to President Lee in Taiwan. Stephen has been a staunch supporter of bilateral relations between the United States and Taiwan and has earned the respect and friendship of many Members of Congress. I invite my colleagues to join in wishing Stephen and his family best wishes on the occasion of his return to Taiwan and his retirement.

TRIBUTE TO ANGELICA MILTON

HON. SAXBY CHAMBLISS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 9, 2000

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased to honor Angelica Milton of Folkston, GA. Angelica was named a National Award Winner for honor roll. This prestigious award is offered to fewer than 10% of American high school students. Angelica was selected by her teachers and school staff members for her excellent academic performance, interest and aptitude, leadership qualities, responsibility, enthusiasm, motivation to learn and improve, citizenship, attitude and cooperative spirit, and dependability.

Angelica is an exceptional young lady, who exemplifies the qualities of a true leader, and I am proud to recognize her as an outstanding citizen of my district.

RECOGNIZING THE CONSUMER
PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION
AND POSTAL SERVICE EFFORTS
IN PROMOTING CONSUMER
AWARENESS OF UNSAFE PRODUCTS

HON. CARRIE P. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 9, 2000

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, defective products can have devastating effects on American lives. One of the strongest safeguards we have in protecting the safety and health of our citizens is the Consumer Product Safety Commission. The CPSC is working with manufacturers and retailers to keep harm-

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ful or dangerous products off of store shelves and away from Americans.

The U.S. Postal Service has made an innovative attempt at remedying this problem by giving defective products more exposure in its offices. Over 33,000 post offices nationwide are displaying posters containing color pictures of products recalled by the CPSC. Since almost 7 million people visit those post offices everyday to mail letters and ship packages, this should be highly effective in disseminating to consumers the names of those products that have been recalled by the CPSC.

I would like to share with my colleagues an editorial that recently appeared in the Ft. Lauderdale Sun Sentinel regarding this issue. I applaud the CPSC and the Postal Service for their initiative in protecting the public.

[From the Sun-Sentinel, Apr. 24, 2000]

PRODUCT RECALLS—POSTERS IN POST OFFICES
WILL HELP

The U.S. Postal Service, which for years has been helping to get defective people off the streets by displaying the FBI's "most wanted" list, now wants to do the same with defective products.

Posters containing color pictures of products recalled by the Consumer Product Safety Commission are going up in 33,000 post offices nationwide. Every day, about 7 million people will visit those post offices to mail letters and ship packages. Now they'll be able to get potentially life-saving information while they're there.

"We can get dangerous products off store shelves, but the real challenge is to get them out of families' homes," commission Chairwoman Ann Brown said.

That's the crux of it. As more and more products are recalled, a smaller and smaller percentage of them rate a mention in news reports. For the rest, it's left to consumers to determine whether products they own have been recalled. That's a bad system, and as the Sun-Sentinel reported in its product recall series last year, several proposals have been put forth to fix it.

Ralph Nader, for example, has suggested using computers to notify consumers immediately if products they own have been recalled. Others want to repeal or modify section 6b of the Consumer Product Safety Act, which requires that recalls be kept secret until the companies involved can review the information, a process that can take years.

Those are good ideas, but unless and until they are implemented, displaying posters in post offices will help. It's another way in which the post office can serve as "the one hand that binds this nation together," as one postal official put it.

And hey, if you see any wanted criminals on your way to return a defective product, call the police and tell them you want to report a defective person.

NATIVE NATIONS INSTITUTE FOR
LEADERSHIP, MANAGEMENT,
AND POLICY ACT OF 2000

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 9, 2000

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation to establish the Native Nations Institute for Leadership, Management, and Policy (NNI). I am